

**WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Council Work Session**  
**April 15, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 pm in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Garrett, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Moore, and President McCarthy-Johnson. Amanda Ford, Interim Borough Manager was also present. Ms. Trice and Mayor John Thompson was absent. A quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Following the pledge of allegiance led by President McCarthy-Johnson, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None at this time.

**FINANCE**

**1. Approving Resolution No. 15-018 – for the purchase of the Johnson VT651 Street Sweeper in the amount of \$238,683.00.**

Mr. Egler provided Council with an overview of the seven year lease/purchase funding plan for the street sweeper.

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second:** Ms. Macklin

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**2. Discussion regarding Capital Improvement Bond.**

Mr. Lefebvre informed Council about the information presented and the ongoing discussion in deciding to move forward with a three million dollar bond application. Currently there are three outstanding bonds Series A, B and C. Mr. Egler explained the cost would be approximately \$98,000 each year with funds expected to finance major projects within the Borough specifically asphalt paving. Mr. Lefebvre informed Council if Council moves forward the funds will be

available approximately by July 1, 2015. It was suggested to have the Borough Engineer re-evaluate the streets that need to be paved due to the bad winter. A millage rate increase to apply to Debt Service was suggested by Mr. Egler and will be looked at further before the end of the year to balance the budget.

Council authorized Bond Professionals to move forward with the process to obtain a Capital Improvement Bond.

**Moved:** Ms. Macklin

**Second:** Mr. Lefebvre

Mr. Taiani asked when the last bond was issued and the bond rating at that time with the answer being in 2011; Standard and Poor's A Stable rating. Mr. Taiani asked for an explanation of the distinction of an A rating. It was explained a Triple A rating is the highest rank followed by Double A Plus, Double A and Double A Minus. It was further explained the Borough's rank was improved last fall to an A Plus rating, an excellent rating that is one notch below a Double A rating.

Mrs. Macklin asked for an approximate amount of revenue after increasing Borough taxes one mill. Based upon a 70% collection rate the amount is approximately \$290,000.

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**3. Discussion regarding the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank (PIB) Loan, with the interest rate of 1.625% for the purpose of a Road Paving Project.**

Ms. Ford provided information about loan options and payment schedule arrangements established in Harrisburg for infrastructure improvements. The program is not a twelve year repayment program as Council was previously informed but based upon a payment schedule set by Harrisburg. There are other options for PIB loans for capital improvements. Ms. Ford explained repayment is based upon the fixed interest rate of 1.625%. There is a nine month processing time.

It was the consensus of Council to gather the necessary information and obtain an application to file for the loan.

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**GENERAL MATTERS**

**1. Approving Resolution No. 15-019 – for the Proposed Construction Installation Agreement of Conduit and Lighting facilities for the Penn Avenue Railroad Bridge substructure.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second:** Ms. Grannemann

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**2. Approving Officer Charles Knox honorable discharge effective April 15, 2015.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second:** Ms. Grannemann

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA – APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Shattuck talked about board member five year term continuation dates. He suggested to Council because there are four members whose terms continue until December 31, 2016 and terms should expire on rolling terms, based upon five year terms. One member's term will continue until 2016, one member until 2017 and the following terms will continue as shown for compliance.

- 1. Approving Resolution No. 15-020 – Appointing Mary Cathcart to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term to commence April 15, 2015 and continuing through December 31, 2018.**
- 2. Approving Resolution No. 15-021 – Appointing Robert Firth to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term to commence April 15, 2015 and continuing through December 31, 2019.**
- 3. Approving Resolution No. 15-022 – Appointing Jeffrey Lovett to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term to commence April 15, 2015 and continuing through to December 31, 2020.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second:** Ms. Macklin

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**Motion to remove from TABLE –**

- 1. Resolution No. 14-106 – Re-appointing Brandon Boan to WCACDC for a three year term to commence January 1, 2105 and continue through to December 31, 2017.**
- 2. Resolution No. 14-107 – Appointing Doug Duffus to WCACDC for a three year term to commence January 1, 2015 and continue through to December 31, 2017.**
- 3. Resolution No. 14-108 – Appointing Karl Steinmetz to WCACDC for a three year term to commence January 1, 2015 and continue through to December 31, 2017.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second:** Ms. Grannemann

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**Motion to appoint the following:**

- 1. Resolution No. 14-106 –Re-appointing Brandon Boan to WCACDC for a three year term to commence January 1, 2015 and continuing through to December 31, 2017.**
- 2. Resolution No. 14-107 – Appointing Doug Duffus to WCACDC for a three year term to commence January 1, 2015 and continuing through to December 31, 2017.**
- 3. Resolution No. 14-108 – Appointing Karl Steinmetz to WCACDC for a three year term to commence January 1, 2015 and continuing through to December 31, 2017.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second:** Ms. Grannemann

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**On motion by Mr. Lefebvre second by Mr. Taiani to appoint Marita Garrett to WCACDC by Resolution No. 15-023 for a three year term to commence April 15, 2015 and continuing through to December 31, 2017.**

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

Mr. Shattuck reminded Council the WCACDC allows no more than three non-residents to serve on the Commission and asked that Ms. Guy, Chairperson be reminded. There are presently three non-residents serving on the Commission.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Kate Luxemburg - 432 Rebecca Ave.** – Ms. Luxemburg asked about CITE funds and Ardmore Blvd. demolition. She talked about MSF being charged that do not receive the service and the property is vacant. She talked about uninhabitable units that would not qualify for an occupancy permit and should not be charged the fee.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Grannemann announced Citizens' Police Academy begins on Thursday, April 30, 2015. Registration forms can be obtained at the Police Department. Police Department is recruiting for School Crossing Guards. Mr. Taiani asked about the lack of Crossing Guards at Rowland Connector and Pennwood Avenue. Mr. Lefebvre has seen someone at that intersection when he went by a few days ago. Crosswalk lines needs painted at those intersections. Ms. Macklin suggested painting curbs and crosswalk lines is a project for adding more people to DPW.

Mr. Taiani talked about Adopt-A-Block for clean-up projects and posting signs to advertise. President McCarthy-Johnson suggested teaming with the Block Clubs for residence involvement and Chamber of Commerce for contact with businesses.

Ms. Grannemann reported faded street signs at the corner of Barnes Street and Hampton Avenue. She questioned why the signs were not replaced with new signs.

Mr. Lefebvre reminded Council about completion of Ethics Forms and the deadline to have them in is May 1, 2015.

Mr. Taiani asked about an update from WPJWA requested for areas in the Borough where there have been water problems on streets. Nothing has been reported.

Vice-President Moore talked about a clean-up on Douglas Drive and she introduced Linda Atkins a resident of Kendon Drive involved in an initiative for clean-up on Douglas Drive. It is Ms. Atkins belief cleaner neighborhoods have less crime. She talked about the noticeable improvements after cleaning the area. She asked for a garbage receptacle for trash collected that is currently being left on the street for DPW to pick up. Sembower has committed to planting flowers for beautification.

Ms. Ford mentioned a collection that was taken from Council for former Mayor O'Malley and the need for a collection for former Councilwoman Barbara Ervin.

Ms. Grannemann asked if there had been any new development about Green Street Park which there has not been.

Mr. Taiani asked to have the police and/or DPW check on 1710 Fahnestock Avenue where there is dumping, the property needs secured and other questionable activities occur.

Vice-President Moore reported on the building of a living wall near Hunter Avenue and Maple Street with planting of flowers and other beautification activities.

President McCarthy-Johnson talked about Borough employees ignoring illegally parked vehicles, Code Enforcement violations, and not reporting such. She believes people (Borough employees) should be held accountable for not reporting illegalities and lawlessness. Announcements of upcoming events as follows: Dream City Artwork being held on Saturday, April 18, 2015 and the honoring of the Wilkesburg Police Department at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church at 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Macklin announced a summer youth program sponsored by the County for ages 14-21. Applications are due April 30, 2015. Pay rate for the summer program is \$7.50 an hour.

Ms. Macklin asked about reporting of Hazard Mitigation for blight and applying for grants for demolition to help with blighted areas that are safety hazards. She reported the possibility to apply for monies that can be applied to trestles maintenance.

Ms. Macklin reported a wall collapsed from a house on Marlboro Avenue and is on the sidewalk which poses a public safety hazard. The property is vacant.

Mr. Shattuck announced a pre-clean up before the Dream City Artwork Event. Mr. Shattuck reported he and Ms. Garrett met with Neighborhood Allies for a productive tour of different sites in the Borough that netted suggestions for sponsoring funding for beautification projects from the investment committee.

Vice-President Moore announced Community Life is hiring van drivers with on-site interviews located at 2400 Ardmore Boulevard on the eighth floor. Wages are \$10-\$12.00 an hour with benefits.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Garrett announced “Pittsburgh on the Move” a program sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh, to be held on Wednesday May 13, 2015 from 3-4:45 p.m. at Carnegie Mellon University. Ms. Garrett will leave the advertisement for this event for those who are interested.

Council recessed into Executive Session at approximately 8:10 p.m. and ended at approximately 8:20 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, President McCarthy-Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m.

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Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson  
President Council